

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00583 231443Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 /023 W
-----231930Z 006378 /43
R 231423Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
SECSTATE WASHDC 7401

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FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM LAINGEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, MT, EG
SUBJECT: AUC MALTA BRANCH

REFS: (A) VALLETTA 0262, (B) CAIRO 3344,

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AUC PRESIDENT BYRD.
2. BEGIN MESSAGE. GOM MINISTER OF EDUCATION MUSCAT SUMMONED ME "URGENTLY" ON MAY 18 CONCERNING THE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOM AND AUC ABOUT YOUR MANAGEMENT TRAINING SCHOOL FOR LIBYANS HERE. MUSCAT DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS TO DATE AS HE SEES THEM, EMPHASIZED WHAT HE SAID WAS AUC'S GROSSLY INADEQUATE POSITION ON RENT, AND ASKED ME TO USE MY "GOOD OFFICES" WITH YOU TO PREVENT THE WHOLE ARRANGEMENT FROM COLLAPSING.
3. I TOLD MUSCAT I WOULD OF COURSE SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD USEFULLY DO AFTER GETTING THE AUC SIDE OF THE PICTURE BUT I EMPHASIZED THAT YOURS WAS A COMPLETELY PRIVATE INSTITUTION WITH ITS OWN INTERESTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND THAT I WAS NOT SURE I COULD OR SHOULD

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PLAY ANY ROLE. MUSCAT ASSURED ME THAT THE GOM SHARED OUR VIEW THAT RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IN A WAY ACCEPTABLE TO AUC WAS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED.

4. BILL STEVENS AND HIS ASSISTANT, MISS SHATI, HAVE KEPT US INFORMED OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MALTESE ON A REGULAR BASIS SINCE YOUR INITIAL VISIT HERE. AFTER

MUSCAT'S SUMMONS, MISS SHATI BRIEFED DCM WIGGINS FULLY AND IS KEEPING US INFORMED OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING A MEETING THAT WE UNDERSTAND STEVENS IS RETURNING TO ATTEND ON MAY 30. SHE HAS GIVEN US THE IMPRESSION THAT FINAL AND POSITIVE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED AT THAT TIME.

5. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO INVOLVE MYSELF FURTHER UNLESS YOU THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL THAT WE DO SO IN SOME WAY. I WOULD LIKE, IF YOU AGREE, TO GO BACK TO MUSCAT AND TELL HIM THAT I HAVE PASSED ALONG HIS CONCERNS, THAT YOU HAVE ASSURED ME OF AUC'S OWN DESIRE TO REACH AN AMICABLE BUT REASONABLE BASIS FOR YOUR OPERATION HERE AND THAT I AM THEREFORE CONFIDENT THAT AN UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT OUR FURTHER INVOLVEMENT. END MESSAGE.

6. WARM REGARDS TO YOU. LAINGEN

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